



# The Pileup

## Newsletter of the CDXA

### CDXA Score Up 250 Percent in ARRL Ten Meter Contest

Dick Williams - W3OA

Last year, CDXA placed eighth of the 30 clubs entered in the Medium Category of the ARRL Ten Meter Contest Club Competition with a claimed score total of 1,354,908 points. This year our total claimed score is 4,772,674 points.

We again offered four prizes to encourage participation. Each was seventy dollars worth of Outback Steak House gift cards. Three prizes were for the three top scoring entries and one prize was to be raffled off among remaining entries that made 100 or more contest QSOs. The high scoring winners were announced and the raffle was held at the CDXA Wednesday Lunch on December 21. Here are the results:

First Place – N2TU, 1,050,994 points  
 Second Place – AA4V, 790,134 points  
 Third Place – W3GQ, 701,096 points

W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	President
W4GRW	Bill Fisher	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W3OA	Dick Williams	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	Cluster Mgr.- North Area
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
NV4A	John Forbus	Editor

Fifteen operators were eligible for the raffle prize:

AD4IE	W3OA	K2SX
W4GRW	K5EK	W4NZC
KU4V	W7DO	KZ2I
W7WZ	K6RM	WD4DHJ
N4LED	WW4CP	NV4A

W4GRW won the raffle.

Here are soapbox comments (edited) I received from CDXA members after the Ten Meter contest:

*(Continued on page 2)*

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com
W4DXA (AR Cluster via Telnet)	w4dx.no-ip.com
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600 )	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC

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K6RM: Even with only the 2nd story bedroom dipole, that was fun. Happy Holidays, All.

K8YC: Here is my meager log from the 10m contest. Probably should have submitted as a checklog only. I listened some, but wasn't heard when calling very well. I suspect the low takeoff for a vertical is a real disadvantage. Heard Oregon, Washington, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Alaska, Chile, and Argentina quite well. Hawaii was worked with a struggle. Only exciting Q was working Palau T88NU--a "vacation style" DXpeditioner.

KZ2I: Christmas shopping shot down Saturday. Got home just as band shut down (earlier than I expected). Gave over rig to Cec (W2CDS) for Sunday morning. High point of the weekend was watching Cec operating her first contest. The girl is a natural. She had to go to work at around noon Sunday, so only had about 4 hours of operating. But she was recognizing phonetics and did very good for a first time out on her own.

W7WZ: Rookie learned a lot. My first 10 meter contest. 81 countries, down a bump from the CQWW. All search n pounce, great fun! Next time I will work some states, hi!

WW4CP: The contact breakdown was WW4CP 231, N4LED 107, AA4ZR 122, W4GRW 208, WD4DHJ 133, K4CBE 11, K4GKK 27, W4WNT CW 24

### The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association  
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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Yearly dues are \$25.00. A second licensed Amateur family member living in the same household can join for \$5.00 for a total family price of \$30.00 per year. The total price for 3 or more licensed family members living in the same household is only \$35.00 per year. All family members enjoy full member status. Dues are payable annually in December by check or through the CDXA website, to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL  
P. O. Box 577  
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: [jcw53@cornell.edu](mailto:jcw53@cornell.edu).

### New CDXA Officers for 2012

New CDXA officers for 2011 were elected at the Annual Meeting/Christmas Party held on December 8, 2011. The notable change was that after 12 years (!) as editor of the Pileup, John Scott stepped down, and John Forbus, NV4A decided to give the Pileup his best shot (See more on John and John later in this issue.) All other incumbent officers stood for reelection. The officers elected for 2012 are:

President:	Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF
Vice President:	Bill Fisher, W4GRW
Secretary/Treasurer:	Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
Newsletter Editor:	John Forbus, NV4A
Contest Manager:	Dick Williams, W3OA
Cluster Manager:	Joe Simpkins, K4MD
Cluster Manager/North:	Paul Sturpe, W3GQ
Webmaster:	Wayne Setzer, WB4BXW



### The 2012 Officers

Left to right: NV4A, K4MD, W4VHF, W3OA, W3GQ, WB4BXW, W3ZL, W4GRW



## DX King News

Dick Williams, W3OA

Item 1: The 2011 competition is over. Don't forget to submit your entry to CQ no later than January 31. Instructions on how to do that are at <http://www.dxmarathon.com/Submissioninfo2011/CQ DX Marathon2011.htm>. You must submit your entry to CQ to be eligible for DX King prizes. Email your entry to [scores@dxmarathon.com](mailto:scores@dxmarathon.com)

Item 2: The 2012 competition has started. See Item 4 on this page for details..

Item 3: These are the scores I have for the 2011 DX King competition as of December 31:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	278	40	318
N4ZC	Unlimited	268	40	308
W3OA	Unlimited	266	40	306
W3GQ	Unlimited	265	40	306
WA4DT	Unlimited	264	40	304
W4HG	Unlimited	261	40	301
K3XC	Unlimited	260	40	300
N4PQX	Unlimited	243	40	283
KZ2I	Unlimited	237	40	277
W7DO	Unlimited	234	40	274
N2TU	Unlimited	220	40	260
W3ZL	Formula	221	39	260
K1MIJ	Unlimited	217	39	256
W1AJT	Unlimited	215	40	255
K8YC	Unlimited	214	40	254
NK0S	Unlimited	213	38	251
K2SX	Unlimited	206	39	245
W4NZC	Formula	185	37	222
W4UFO	Unlimited	182	40	222
W4WNT	Formula	158	31	189
K4ESE*	Unlimited	146	36	182
AF1E	Unlimited	102	32	132

\*All 80 meters

## And last, but certainly not least:

Item 4: CDXA will run its "DX King" Competition again this year. The main difference from last year will be in the prize raffled off among the participants. For the 2012 competition we will raffle off a 10 inch tablet computer.

The goal of DX Marathon is to "work as many countries and zones as possible at least once during the calendar year." This can be inside or outside other contests. Here are some of the main features of the DX Marathon rules:

- Your score is the number of CQ countries worked plus number of zones worked during the year, e.g. 348 countries (see <http://dxmarathon.com/countrieslist/cqwwlist.doc>); 40 zones.
- There are two entry categories (the full rules are much more specific in defining these categories):
- Unlimited – anything legal.
- Formula - 10 watts and single tower or 100 watts with verticals and/or wires.
- QSLs are not needed.
- The use of Packet Cluster spots is permitted. No other assistance is allowed in the Formula category.
- CQ provides an Excel spreadsheet for score submission at <http://dxmarathon.com/> Submit your scores to CQ by January 31, 2013; the results will be in the June CQ.
- The full rules are at <http://dxmarathon.com/Rules/2012/2012%20Rules.htm>. You should study these before you start making contacts as there are many important points not mentioned here. CQ does say that there are no changes from last year.

Here are the rules specific to our DX King Competition:

- There are two travelling first place plaques, one for the Unlimited category and one for the Formula category.
- A member cannot win the same plaque two years in a row.
- Certificates will be awarded for the top five scores in the Unlimited and Formula categories.

For 2012, there will be a *10 inch tablet computer* awarded by a raffle among entrants scoring 150 or more points. Final standings will be determined by the DX Marathon scores published in CQ.

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- Any tie score will be resolved in favor of the member who first submitted that score to the Contest Manager.
- Members must score 150 points or greater to win a plaque.
- After reaching a score of 100, members are expected to report their current score monthly to the Contest Manager.
- Scores will be published throughout the year in the Pileup.

There are many tools available to help you keep track of your Marathon Progress. Several were discussed in previous issues of the Pileup. See <http://cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa0810.pdf>, <http://cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa0901.pdf>, and <http://cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa0902.pdf>.

A lot of our members have enjoyed this competition over the last three years and we are hoping more will participate in 2012. Score keeping is relatively simple and can be almost automatic. And it's another reason to get a large number of QSOs in this year's DX contests in addition to working a lot of DX throughout the year.

## 2012 Calendar

Here are some dates of important activities for CDXA members in 2011. Be sure to put these on your personal calendar now to minimize the chance of scheduling conflicts arising as we go through the year. And if you don't already have one, be sure to ask Dick, W3OA for one of the handy wallet-size Contest Calendars he passes out every year.

DX King Contest	Jan 1 –Dec 31
CQ World Wide 160 Meter, CW	Jan 27-29
ARRL DX Contest, CW	Feb 17-19
CQ World Wide 160 Meter, Phone	Feb 24-26
North Carolina QSO Party	Feb 27
ARRL DX Contest, Phone	Mar 2-4
Charlotte Hamfest	Mar 10-11
CDXA Annual Hamfest Banquet	Mar 10
Dayton Hamvention	May 18-20
ARRL June VHF QSO Party	June 16-18
Field Day	June 23-24
CQ World Wide, VHF	July 16-17
Shelby Hamfest	Sept 1-2

ARRL September VHF QSO Party	Sept 10-11
CQ World Wide, RTTY	Sept 29-30
SEDCO/Ten-Tec Hamfest	Sept 28-29
CQ World Wide, Phone	Oct 26-28
CQ World Wide, CW	Nov 23-25
ARRL 160 Meter Contest	Nov 30-Dec 2
ARRL 10 Meter Contest	Dec 7-9

## CDXA Annual Hamfest Banquet

One item from the 2012 Calendar needs special mention. On Saturday March 10, after everyone has had plenty of time to spend at the Charlotte Hamfest, we'll gather at the Carolina Prime Steakhouse, starting at 6:30 for cocktails and socializing, with dinner starting around 7:20. We have a *very* special prize to give away, compliments of Yaesu, via K7BV, Dennis Motschenbacher. (THANKS, Yaesu and Dennis!). In case you don't recognize it by the little picture below, it's an FT-950, a very, very nice HF plus 6 meter 100w transceiver. So mark your calendars, and join us for a great event and a chance to win a really great radio.



## And in related news....

Something else important to put on your calendars is that **HK0NA** (Malpelo Island) will be activated by a team of DXers on or about Jan 21 until Feb 5. Check out their website <http://hk0na.com> to get some idea of what they're facing. According to one of the honest, published **need's lists**, HK0 is #2 in the world! Now for the BIG NEWS. One of the Team Leaders is Bob Callphin, K4UEE, and he's coming to the Charlotte Hamfest to put on a presentation about this DXpedition. Even better, Bob and his XYL will be with us at our Saturday night banquet.

## 2011 CQWW CWAC Wrap Up

Dick Williams, W3OA

Getting back to more contesting news:

Propagation was great during the CW weekend – see the soapbox comments at the end of this article. The total of our claimed 2011 CQWW scores was 57 million points. This is a great improvement over the 2010 total of 34.3 million points. Our members who went on DXpeditions accounted for a large portion of our score. AA4V was one of the two operators at AA4V/VP9 in the phone contest so CDXA claimed half of their score of 11.2 million points. And K2SX was one of the two operators at V31AO in the CW contest so we claimed credit for half of that operation's 5.3 million points

CDXA again fielded entries in both the CW and phone five-man team competitions.

- Our phone team – K3XC, KI4TZ, KZ2I, N4ZC, and W3GQ, scored 13.6 million points.
- Our CW team – IS0/K7QB, N2TU, N4ZC, W3GQ, and W3OA scored 18.6 million points.

CDXA members competed for first place "Contest Within A Contest" (CWAC) awards in six categories. Each winner got his choice of a trophy or a fifty-dollar gift card for Outback Steak House. The winners were:

- Top Combined Score – N4ZC, 8,460,000 points
- Top Phone Score – K3XC, 3,853,000 points
- Top Phone Score, Low Power – W4NZC, 246,000 points
- Top CW Score – N2TU, 4,372,000 points
- Top CW Score, Low Power – W3ZL, 375,000 points
- Top DXpedition Score – AA4V/VP9, 5,583,000 points

Members who completed 1000 or more QSOs combined in the phone and CW contests each received a trophy or a twenty-five-dollar gift card for Outback Steak House. These winners were:

IS0/K7QB (not eligible for a gift card or trophy, did receive a certificate), K2SX, K5EK, KI4TZ, KZ2I, N4PQX, W3GQ, W3OA, W4ZV, W7DO, W7WZ, WW4CP

Members who completed 500 or more QSOs combined in the phone and CW contests each received a certificate and a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate. There were two winners: AA4SC and K2SD

Members who completed 250 or more QSOs combined in the phone and CW contests each received a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate. There were three winners here: K1MIJ, NV4A, and WA4DT. WA4DT won the drawing for the gift certificate.

Here are soapbox comments (edited) I received from CDXA members after the CW contest:

K2SX: (At V31AO) V31AO had a score of 5.326M in M/S, mostly LP category (we lost the amp after a few hours so went barefoot most of the time). Still working on the log. We had some RF get into the PC apparently and messed up a bunch of freq entries. Now working on cleaning up big finger entry problems. Going thru 5K QSOs takes longer than I thought.

K6RM: Still unpacking here at my rental house, so no award-winning score from here!! But managed a little time in the CQ WW CW.

N4ZC: Really great condx. In a normal contest, if 10 is good, 160 isn't. That wasn't the case this year. CW lives! As usual, the contest brought out the DXER in me, and I spent a lot of time working mults, in some big pileups. I'm pretty sure this is the best single op I've ever done from the states. I'm really getting too old for this stuff. I operated 40 of the 48 hours. It gets harder every year to keep at it trying to work the garden variety stations when I'm really tired. A new mult helps keep me awake and there were a lot in this contest. It has been a long time since I worked all 40 zones on one band.

W4ZV: (Single band, 10 meters) Fabulous conditions to Europe but not quite enough Solar Flux for good Asia and WAZ (no 18, 23 or 26). Had some really strange openings I've never seen before like NH2T at 16z, 9M2IDJ

*(Continued on page 6)*



both ways over the pole, YB1 long path, etc. At times multipath and echos made it almost impossible to copy some stations. Fun, fun, fun and we're not even at peak conditions yet! Thanks to everyone for making this the best contest on the planet.

W7WV: The bands were so crowded that I sent one report and two stations confirmed it. This was a part time effort focused on 80 meters. I enjoyed searching for new countries and testing a new 80 meter wire beam. There were only a handful of stations that I could hear, but not work. Great participation and fun!

WA4DT: This is the first time I have ever kept score...I usually just write the call down so there is no dupe.

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### **"I'll take 'PASTIMES' for \$800, Alex"**

On Thursday, Dec 15's Jeopardy, "PASTIMES" was one of the "Jeopardy" categories, and the \$800 clue was "The FCC assigns call signs, like N8DNR, to use in this hobby." It appeared that all three contestants were pushing their buttons, and the first one to "ring in" quickly answered "What's Ham Radio?" It was nice to see that there wasn't dead silence after the clue.

The day before, on the 14th, there had been a category in "Double Jeopardy", titled "THE NATO PHONETIC ALPHABET." The clues were:

- \$400: Y. One single member of the "Bronx Bombers"
- \$800: U. A general wears one & so does a private
- \$1200: K. It's equal to 1,000 grams
- \$1600: H. A place to stay when on vacation
- \$2000: L. A New World capital city

I won't insult anybody by providing the "questions", but as with the Ham Radio clue, these were all answered correctly.

## **Announcing: DX University First Session: The Holiday Inn, Visalia, California Friday 20 April, 2012**

(We received this from Roger Western, G3SXW. If you're looking for an excuse to head to California...)

Press Release Nr 1

For Immediate Release

Enhance your DXing adventure! At last, here is your opportunity to directly benefit from the skills and experience of some of the world's best-known DXers. We all know about the wonderful success of Contest University (CTU), developed in recent years by K3LR and others, and rolled out internationally. Over 1,000 testers have attended. DX University (DXU) is the twin, providing high-caliber offerings for beginning and experienced DXers alike. The all-day program will take place on the Friday of Visalia weekend, 20th April 2012. Among the lecturers are AA7A, G3SXW, K4UEE, K9LA, N7NG, W3UR, W6OAT, W9KNI and XE1KK, many of whom are inductees of the CQ DX Hall of Fame. Learn the secrets of operating techniques for working DX, optimizing stations & antennas for DXing, about propagation, information sources, awards, and ethics, remote operating, QSLing and much more. You will also get the DXpeditioner's view of how DXers should operate to get into the log. Student places are limited. The early registration fee is only \$50, including lunch and breaks. Sign up beginning January 2, 2012 at [www.dxuniversity.com](http://www.dxuniversity.com)

Further information from Wayne Mills,  
[N7NG@arrl.net](mailto:N7NG@arrl.net) or Roger Western,  
[G3SXW@btinternet.com](mailto:G3SXW@btinternet.com)

## Welcome New and Returning Members

We've had some new and returning members over the last couple of months: Our membership count now stands at over 210 members. Our latest new members are:

**Ron Oates, AA4VK**, Raleigh, NC

**Murray Adams, WA4DAN**, Farmville, NC, who became member #210!

**Mark Matthews, K4QO**, Waxhaw, NC

Returning to CDXA is:

**Lynnette Martek, KD7BVO**, of Blythewood, SC, who is the spouse of CDXA member Gary, W7DO..

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## Silent Keys



Sadly, we also lost a long-time member in December, when Ervin Jackson, N4BIG, became a Silent Key. Ervin was active not only in CDXA, but MARS (W4BFB) as well. He will be missed.

Also, Scott Douglass, K2SX, a Charter Member of CDXA, lost his XYL Andy, K4AND in late December.

Our thoughts are with Scott, and with Ervin's family and many friends.

## The Torch Is Passed From K8YC to NV4A!

After an amazing 12 years, and 10 Pileups a year, John Scott decided to resign as CDXA Pileup Editor. He's done an incredible job, and we all owe a big THANK YOU! I'm not sure how I'll even begin to fill his shoes ...especially after putting my first Pileup together. Check out his grin in the picture of us with our wives Barb and Gail at the "Transfer of Power Ceremony" at the Christmas Party.



I've been editing the W4BFB Newsletter the last couple of years, and was planning to "retire" from editing, but I decided (with some cajoling from a few people) to take over the

Pileup. I'm looking forward to it, and I ask for your patience as I come up to speed. I plan to continue the Ten and Twenty Years Ago feature, starting next month. I don't think I can match John's sense of humor, but I'll try. I'm sure there'll be a few typos and mistakes along the way. Just be nice when you point them out to me. And please, please, send me articles and news for publication.

Also, a little background on me: I got my Novice license in 1963, and have been licensed ever since. After getting a EE degree from Ga. Tech, and marrying my wife Gail (...best decision I ever made!), things like work, family (two sons, Ian, now 34 and David, now 27), other hobbies, and moving around a lot, got in the way of hamming. Now that we're settled into our retirement home at Lake Norman, I'm really enjoying being back on the air again. We're also enjoying our two little granddaughters who live with Ian and his wife Sara in Mooresville. My favorite ham activity, next to tinkering with hardware and antennas, was always working DX, and especially working contests. So, even though I'm way behind most other CDXA members in country count, I'm back into DXing and contesting, and loving it.

73, and see you next month,  
John, NV4A

## The Back Page

- ...Just a reminder that 2012 dues are ....due. All the information, and the convenience of paying via PayPal, can be found at <http://www.cdxa.org/form-application-cdxs.shtml> . Also, see the “fine print” in The Pileup information box on Page 2 for the dues amounts and contact information for our Secretary/Treasurer, Cliff, W3ZL.
- The Christmas Party didn’t get much press in this issue, but suffice it to say that “A good time was had by all.” If you haven’t already done so, be sure to check out the pictures at <https://plus.google.com/photos/109763566582455298186/albums/5686532583934210529?banner=pwa> or just follow the link from the CDXA web site.
- CDXA’s ARRL 10m contest score had a whopping 250% increase from 2010 to 2011. See Page 1. N2TU had the highest score with over a million points. Maybe propagation really is improving!
- There is one new CDXA Officer this year, John Forbus, NV4A, who is replacing the irreplaceable John Scott, K8YC. See Page 2 and Page 7.
- The 2011 DX King competition is over, and we’re waiting to see who’s the big winner. Also, the 2012 completion is underway. See Page 3 for the details.
- Don’t forget to put the event dates on Page 4 into your calendar, and be sure to keep a copy of W3OA’s wallet sized calendar handy.
- Also featured on Page 4 is the big news that the Grand Prize at our Hamfest Banquet on March 10 will be an FT-950, provided by Yaesu. That’s a date you definitely want to note.
- W3OA has also provided, on Page 5, a wrap-up of the 2011 CQWW/CWAC results. The total CDXA claimed score was over 57 million points.

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## First Class Mail

*See something wrong with your address label? Notify W3ZL at once, please.*